TOPIX

April 17, 1950.

MERMAID from RED BANK
HOW DOES A GIRL BECOME A CHAMPION SWIMMER? THIS IS THE STORY OF 18-YEAR-OLD MAUREEN O'BRIEN, THE PRIDE OF RED BANK, NEW JERSEY, WHO IS WELL ON HER WAY TO BECOMING THE GREATEST WOMAN SWIMMER IN AMERICAN SPORTS HISTORY.
WHEN MAUREEN WAS 13—
MOM, THEY'RE GIVING SWIMMING LESSONS AT THE MONMOUTH BEACH CLUB. MAY I GO?
BUT, MAUREEN, I THOUGHT YOU WERE AFRAID OF WATER!
SHE IS, BUT THERE'S A GOOD-LOOKING SWIMMING TEACHER AT THE CLUB.
NOW, BILL! OF COURSE MAUREEN CAN GO IF SHE WANTS TO.

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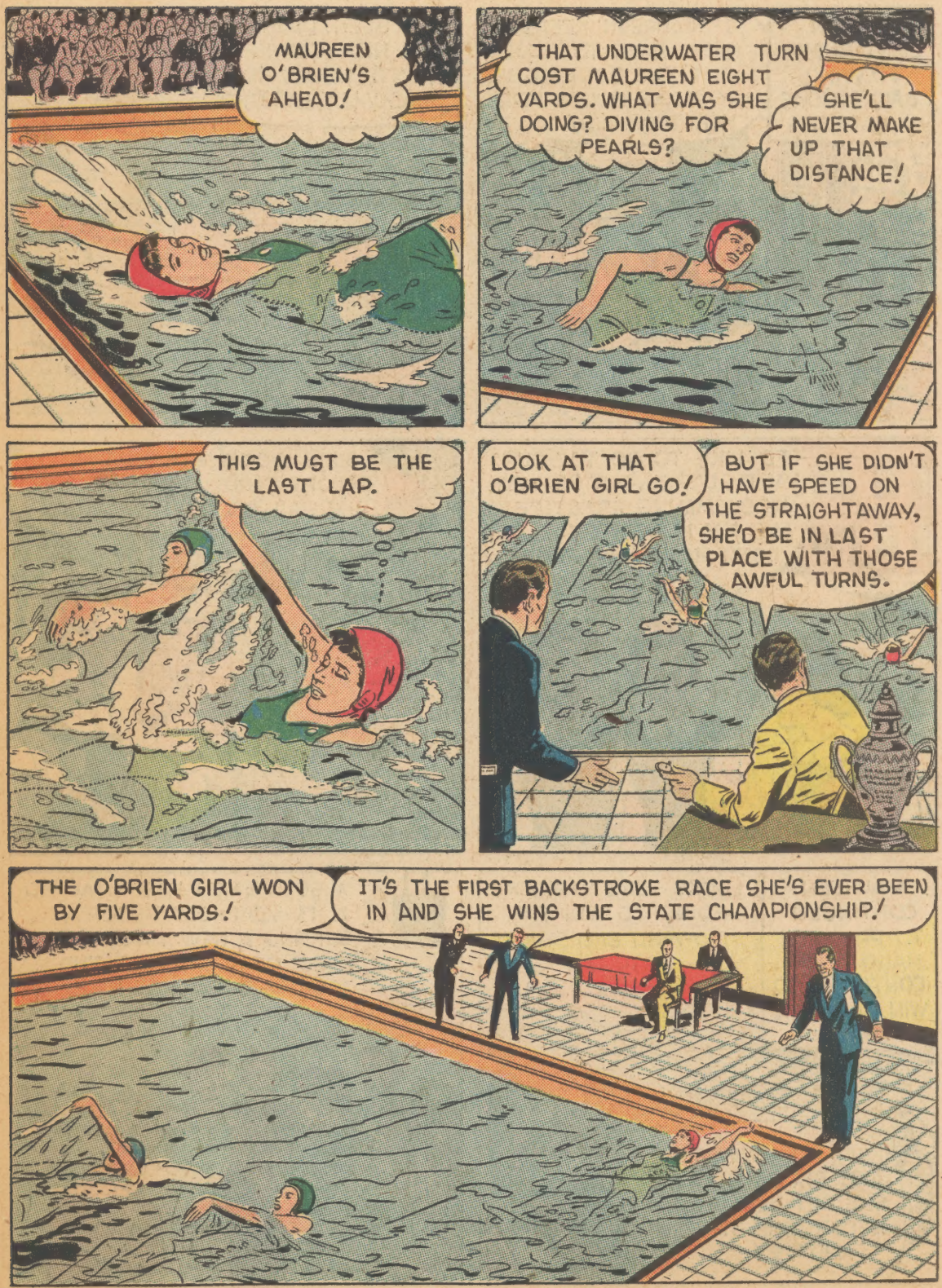
I DIDN'T KNOW SWIMMING WAS THIS MUCH FUN!
IS THAT MAUREEN O'BRIEN OUT THERE?
IT SURE IS! SHE'S IN HERE ALMOST EVERY DAY TO PRACTICE.
I LIKE THE BACKSTROKE BETTER THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
MAUREEN, YOU HAVE A NATURAL BACKSTROKE. YOU COULD BECOME NATIONAL CHAMPION IF YOU SET YOUR MIND ON IT!
THE NEXT RACE-FIFTY-YARD FREESTYLE FOR NOVICES.
MONMOUTH BEACH CLUB SWIM MEE
THAT'S MAUREEN IN THE GREEN SUIT!

MAUREEN DID IT! SHE WON!
MAUREEN WON ALL OF THE FREESTYLE MEETS AT MONMOUTH AND, THE FOLLOWING YEAR, WAS INVITED TO REPRESENT THE MONTE CARLO POOL IN THE FREESTYLE IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET.
THEY'RE READY TO START THE 100-YARD BACK-STROKE, AND WE DON'T HAVE AN ENTRY. CAN ANYONE HERE SWIM BACKSTROKE?
I CAN.
ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE ENTERED. BETTER TAKE OFF THAT MEDAL, THOUGH. IT'LL CATCH ON THE TURNS.
I WON'T SWIM WITHOUT IT. I'LL PIN IT TO MY SUIT.
THAT'S RUTH O'CONNOR WEARING THE GREEN CAP. SHE WON THE JUNIOR BACK-STROKE CHAMPIONSHIP LAST WEEK AND SHE'LL PROBABLY WIN THE STATE CHAMPION-SHIP TODAY.


MAUREEN O'BRIEN'S AHEAD!
THAT UNDERWATER TURN COST MAUREEN EIGHT YARDS. WHAT WAS SHE DOING? DIVING FOR PEARLS?
SHE'LL NEVER MAKE UP THAT DISTANCE!
THIS MUST BE THE LAST LAP.
LOOK AT THAT O'BRIEN GIRL GO!
BUT IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE SPEED ON THE STRAIGHTAWAY, SHE'D BE IN LAST PLACE WITH THOSE AWFUL TURNS.
THE O'BRIEN GIRL WON BY FIVE YARDS!
IT'S THE FIRST BACKSTROKE RACE SHE'S EVER BEEN IN AND SHE WINS THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

MAUREEN CONTINUED TO WIN BACKSTROKE RACES...
IF MAUREEN KEEPS ON, WE'LL HAVE TO TEAR OUT THE BOOKSHELVES TO MAKE ROOM FOR HER TROPHIES!
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING THIS NEW TURN FOR A MONTH NOW, AND I'M GRADUALLY GETTING IT.
I'D LIKE TO GO TO YOUR PARTY, CAROL. BUT BETWEEN MY SWIMMING PRACTICE AND MY HOMEWORK, I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY FREE TIME.
SHE'S GOT A STRAIGHT "A" REPORT CARD. I DIDN'T THINK SHE HAD TO DO HOMEWORK.
I GUESS THAT'S HOW SHE GETS THEM.
MAUREEN CONTINUED TO PRACTICE HARD AND CONTINUED TO WIN. IN MARCH, 1949-
LOOKS LIKE O'BRIEN'S GOING TO WIN THE 100-YARD BACKSTROKE TOO!
WHAT A SWIMMER! JUST SIX DAYS AGO SHE SET NEW U.S. RECORDS IN THE "50" AND "75"!
MISS O'BRIEN HAS SMASHED A 13-YEAR-OLD RECORD, SETTING A NEW AMERICAN MARK OF 1:07.4 FOR THE 100-YARD BACKSTROKE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, MAUREEN. JUST TRY HARD AND PLAY FAIR. IF YOU LOSE, AT LEAST YOU'VE DONE YOUR BEST. THAT'S ALL THAT'S EVER EXPECTED OF ANYONE!
THE NATIONAL INDOOR BACKSTROKE CHAMPIONSHIP AT DAYTONA BEACH...
ARE YOU PRAYING THAT YOU'LL WIN, MAUREEN?
OF COURSE. I NEVER GO IN THE WATER WITHOUT MAKING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
YOU WON IN RECORD TIME, MAUREEN. YOU'RE THE NATIONAL INDOOR BACKSTROKE CHAMP!
MAUREEN WON HONORS IN OTHER FIELDS, TOO. IN JUNE AT RED BANK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL-
EACH YEAR WE PRESENT A MEDAL TO THE MEMBER OF THE GRADUATING CLASS WHO HAS MAINTAINED THE HIGHEST SCHOLASTIC AVERAGE DURING THE YEAR...
IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT THE GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD TO MAUREEN O'BRIEN. NOT ONLY WAS HER AVERAGE THE HIGHEST, BUT HER DEPORTMENT AND CHARACTER STAMP HER AS A WOMAN OF WHOM WE CAN BE TRULY PROUD!
MY MOTTO HAS ALWAYS BEEN, "REMEMBER GOD IN WHATEVER YOU DO AND HE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!"
MAUREEN IS SPENDING A GREAT DEAL OF TIME PRACTICING FREESTYLE NOW. HER GOAL — THE OLYMPICS IN 1952 WHEN SHE HOPES TO BECOME THE FIRST GIRL IN HISTORY TO WIN THE OLYMPIC TITLE IN BOTH BACKSTROKE AND FREESTYLE.

NOT ONLY IS SWIMMING ONE OF OUR MOST HEALTHY SPORTS, BUT THE ABILITY TO SWIM MIGHT SOME DAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!

THE SAFEST AND EASIEST PLACE TO LEARN IS IN A SWIMMING POOL, AND THE "CRAWL" IS THE STROKE TO LEARN FIRST. GO TO THE SHALLOW END, GRASP ONE OF THE LADDER RUNGS BY BOTH HANDS JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE WATER, FLOAT ON YOUR STOMACH AND KICK YOUR FEET BEHIND YOU.

PROPER BREATHING IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF SWIMMING. AS YOU PRACTICE THE "FLUTTER-KICK" TURN YOUR FACE SIDEWAYS (DON'T LIFT IT) UNTIL YOUR FACE IS BARELY ABOVE THE SURFACE. TAKE A QUICK SHORT BREATH AND TURN YOUR FACE BACK INTO THE WATER AND HOLD IT THERE FOR A COUNT OF FIVE WHILE YOU EXHALE.

NOW TAKE A BOARD, HOLD ONTO IT AS YOU HELD ONTO THE LADDER AND BREATHE AND "FLUTTER-KICK" JUST AS YOU HAVE BEEN DOING. YOUR LEGS WILL PROPEL YOU ACROSS THE POOL. IF YOU BEGIN TO GET TIRED, STOP AND REST. NEVER OVEREXERT YOURSELF!

NOW WE'LL TRY THE ARM STROKE. LIE ON YOUR STOMACH IN THE WATER AND START THE KICK. THEN STRETCH YOUR LEFT ARM STRAIGHT FORWARD. LET THE HAND DROP INTO THE WATER ABOUT A FOOT IN FRONT OF YOUR LEFT EAR. LET THE HAND SINK SIX INCHES UNDER THE WATER AND THEN PULL IT STRAIGHT BACK DOWN PAST YOUR WAISTLINE.

NOW THE SAME THING WITH THE OTHER ARM. ONE ARM IS THROWN FORWARD ABOVE THE WATER AS THE OTHER IS PULLED BACK.

THE BACKSTROKE, MY FAVORITE, IS EASY TO LEARN. FIRST, YOU MUST LEARN TO FLOAT ON YOUR BACK. STRETCH OUT YOUR ARMS AND ARCH YOUR BODY BACKWARDS UNTIL YOUR SHOULDERS ARE UNDER THE WATER. THEN PUSH YOUR FEET OFF THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL HOLDING YOUR BODY IN A STRAIGHT LINE.

AS YOU FLOAT ON YOUR BACK, KICK YOUR FEET AS YOU DID FOR THE CRAWL, BUT DON'T LET THEM GO UP AND DOWN MORE THAN A FOOT. CONCENTRATE ON RELAXATION AND OBTAINING A "WHIPPY" SENSATION IN THE ANKLES.

NOW COMES THE ARM STROKE. THE LEFT ARM IS SWUNG LOOSELY OUT AND AWAY FROM THE BODY PAST THE SHOULDER. AS THE HAND DIPS SIX INCHES BENEATH THE WATER, PULL YOUR ARM TOWARD YOUR FEET LIKE AN OAR WITH THE ELBOW KEPT STRAIGHT.

MEANWHILE, AS THE LEFT HAND ENTERS THE WATER, THE RIGHT SHOULDER IS LIFTED AND THE RIGHT ARM THROWN BACK IN THE SAME MANNER. NOW YOU'RE DOING THE BACKSTROKE.

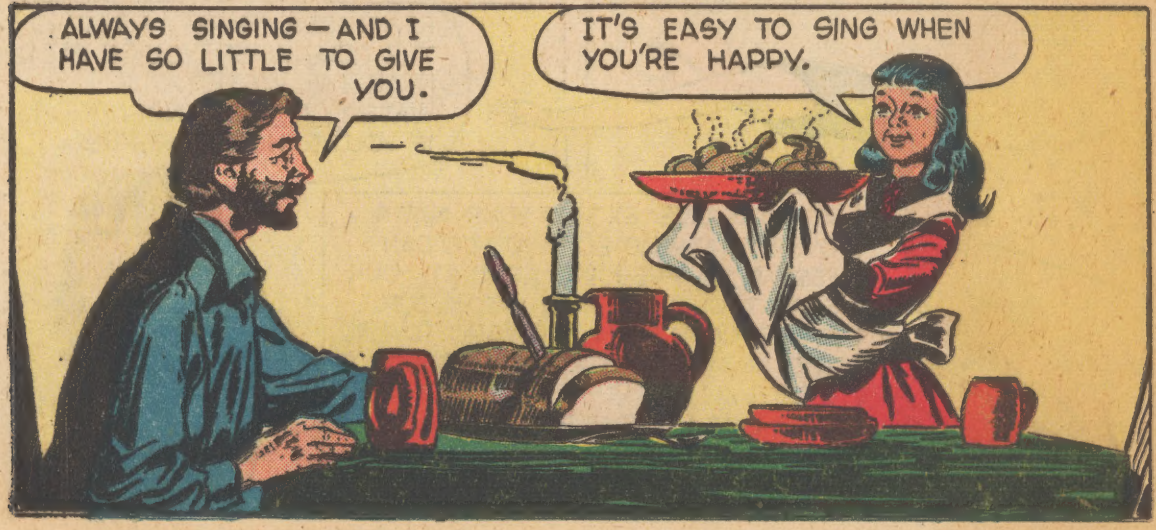
A SIMPLE DIVE: EXTEND YOUR ARMS OVER YOUR HEAD SO THAT YOU CAN FEEL THEM PRESSING AGAINST YOUR EARS. TUCK YOUR CHIN INTO YOUR CHEST. NOW, LEAN FORWARD TOWARD THE WATER. JUST AS YOU FEEL YOURSELF FALLING, PUSH HARD WITH BOTH FEET. LIFT YOUR HEELS BEHIND YOU SO THAT YOUR BODY IS STRAIGHT AS YOU ENTER THE WATER.

REMEMBER, "SAFETY FIRST" IS THE RULE WHEN YOU'RE IN OR NEAR THE WATER. THE WATER CAN BE DANGEROUS IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL!

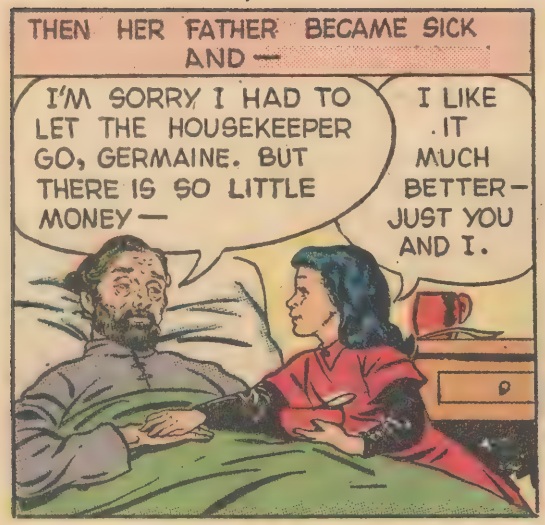
RICH Little POOR GIRL

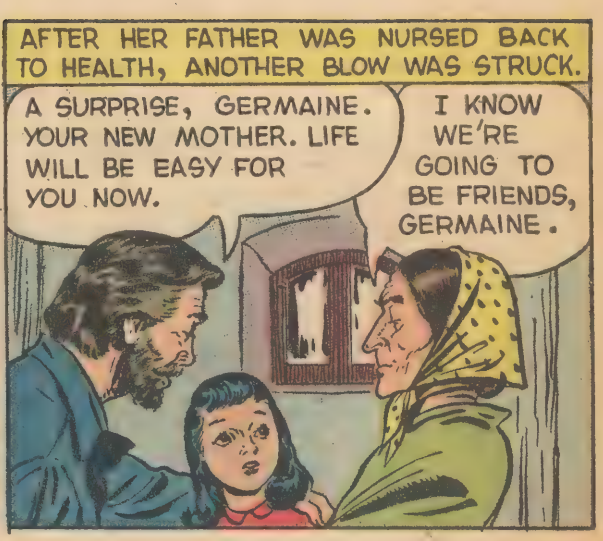
THE STORY OF SAINT GERMAINE

SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD, GERMAINE!
OH, I HOPE YOU LIKE WHAT I'M FIXING.
LATE IN THE 16TH CENTURY, PIBRAC WAS JUST ANOTHER TINY FRENCH VILLAGE. IN ONE OF THE HOMES GERMAINE KEPT HOUSE FOR HER FATHER. HER MOTHER WAS DEAD.

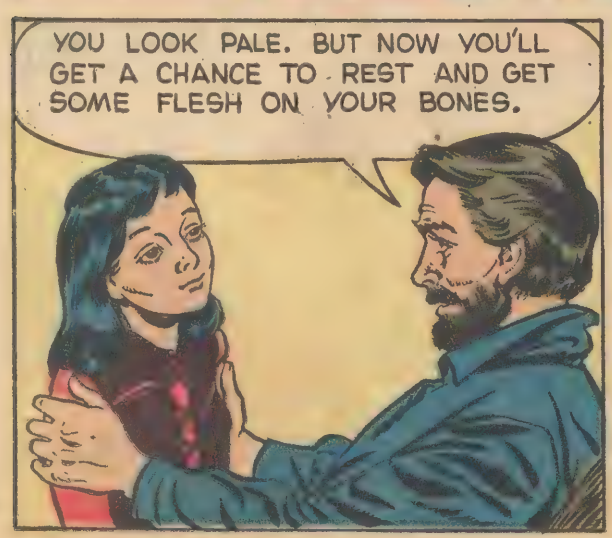


SHE NEVER COMPLAINS. BUT I'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME HELP FOR HER.
I WOULD GIVE A LOT TO BE AS HAPPY AS YOU, GERMAINE.
IT'S REALLY EASY. YOU SEE, YOU JUST HAVE TO REALIZE THAT GOD IS TAKING CARE OF YOU, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT IN THE END.
THEN A HOUSEKEEPER CAME TO THE HOUSE. BUT SHE WAS SHIFTLESS AND A LITTLE CRUEL, SO GERMAINE WORKED HARDER THAN EVER.
HURRY IT UP!
FATHER MUST NEVER KNOW.
BLESSED MOTHER, PLEASE DON'T LET HIM KNOW. IT WOULD ONLY MAKE HIM WORRY.
HAPPY?
OF COURSE.


THEN HER FATHER BECAME SICK AND —
I'M SORRY I HAD TO LET THE HOUSEKEEPER GO, GERMAINE. BUT THERE IS SO LITTLE MONEY —
I LIKE IT MUCH BETTER — JUST YOU AND I.


AFTER HER FATHER WAS NURSED BACK TO HEALTH, ANOTHER BLOW WAS STRUCK.
A SURPRISE, GERMAINE. YOUR NEW MOTHER. LIFE WILL BE EASY FOR YOU NOW.
I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE FRIENDS, GERMAINE.

GERMAINE'S FATHER MEANT WELL, BUT HIS NEW WIFE WAS A SCHEMING WOMAN WITH A SHREWISH DISPOSITION.
YOU'VE HAD YOUR WAY TOO LONG! THERE'LL BE NO LAZINESS AROUND THIS HOUSE! I WANT THIS PLACE SCRUBBED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM!


YOU LOOK PALE. BUT NOW YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO REST AND GET SOME FLESH ON YOUR BONES.

I CAN'T TELL HIM. I'LL NEVER TELL HIM!

ONE DAY—
BUT WHOSE CHILDREN, ARE THOSE?
SHE WAS A WIDOW, GERMAINE, AND THESE ARE HERS. NOW YOU WILL HAVE A BROTHER AND TWO SISTERS.
GERMAINE KEPT ON SMILING, BUT—
HURRY WITH THE WATER OR MOTHER WILL GET OUT THE WHIP!
GERMAINE PRAYS SO MUCH SHE DOESN'T NEED ANY FOOD, MOTHER.
HURRY, GERMAINE THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE. I'LL HAVE NO IDLING IN THIS HOUSE.
TIME PASSED. NEVER ONCE DID HER FATHER GUESS THE TRUTH.
NICE TO HAVE A HOME. HAPPY, GERMAINE?
OF COURSE, I'M HAPPY BECAUSE YOU ARE.

ONE DAY—
I'M SO TIRED. PERHAPS IF I LIE DOWN FOR JUST A MINUTE...
MOTHER IS GOING TO LIKE THIS. GO TELL HER.
I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO FALL ASLEEP. GET UP BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER.
PLEASE, OH, PLEASE!
THERE'S NO ROOM IN THE HOUSE FOR YOU. SLEEP IN THE BARN! AND IF YOU BREATHE A WORD TO YOUR FATHER, YOU'LL REGRET IT.

SO GERMAINE MADE HER HOME IN THE STABLE. SHE DIDN'T MIND FOR SHE KNEW SHE WAS RICH IN A DIFFERENT WAY—

HOW CAN I BE UNHAPPY WHEN I HAVE YOU ALWAYS NEAR, LORD?

THE YEARS WENT BY. ALTHOUGH SHE TENDED THE SHEEP AND SLEPT IN THE STABLE, HER NAME BECAME KNOWN TO THOUSANDS BECAUSE GOD GAVE HER THE POWER TO WORK MIRACLES!

LISTEN. VOICES SINGING—

ANGELS— THE VOICES OF ANGELS.

HOLY MOTHER, PRAY FOR ME. BE KIND TO MY FATHER AND MY STEPMOTHER.

GERMAINE DIED AT 22, BUT HER MEMORY WILL NEVER PERISH. EACH YEAR THOUSANDS VISIT HER SHRINE IN DEVOTION TO A RICH LITTLE POOR GIRL— ST. GERMAINE.

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The Bishop Met the Test

As far as anyone was able to see, Bishop Elphege was doing what every other English bishop of the 11th Century was expected to do. It is true that he seemed to be a bit holier than some of the others—in fact there was even some grumbling over his insistence on the entire diocese observing certain laws of fasting more strictly than before. But on the whole people figured that he was tending to his affairs and ruling as he should.

Then came the Danes! They were the scourge of England at this time with their swift raids into the country when they killed and burned, only to disappear again out at sea. No one was safe and everyone lived in terror of a sudden raid.

One day a large fleet of the sea-raiders appeared right at the gates of Canterbury, Bishop Elphege's city. The citizens knew the Danes would lay siege to their town and they urged their bishop to flee for his life. But that is when they all found out what being a bishop really meant!

The bishop refused to leave—and he went even further than that. He told them all that he was no "hireling", as Christ had scornfully referred to a shepherd who would leave his flock when danger came. Elphege said he would stay with his flock no matter what happened and protect them as best he could. The people were amazed to see that their bishop had such a great love for them, and they fought all the harder to defend themselves. But it was no use. The Danes broke through the walls and captured the whole city!

Once the raiders were inside the walls they began a terrible massacre. Women and children were being slaughtered in the market place when Bishop Elphege, alone and unarmed, appeared. He walked right in among the blood-thirsty pirates and told them to stop their massacre.

"Spare these innocent people," he shouted. "Turn your swords on me instead!"

The Danes were startled for a minute, but they suddenly realized that this old man meant what he said. They put him in chains to be held for ransom. But when he was dragged before the leader of the raiders, he was just as calm as before. The bishop refused to pay any ransom, since that would only be paying the Danes for their murderous actions!

The leader was furious after this and he killed Elphege in the cruelest way he could think of. Then he forgot about the whole thing.

But the odd thing was that no one else would forget. Just 23 years later he was declared a saint, and we have celebrated his feast day on April 19 ever since.

Most of us see bishops only at some great ceremonies. Some people even think the life of a bishop is an easy one. But only once in a while do we see what really lies behind the procession as did Elphege's people. Then we realize that the bishop is really the leader of his flock, the shepherd who goes to his death rather than abandon his charge.

ACCEPTABLE COMICS

A list prepared and distributed by the St. Paul Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the Catholic Youth Council in cooperation with TOPIX, a department of the Catechetical Guild.

This list has been checked against standards prepared under the direction of Very Rev. Rudolph G. Bandas, Ph. D., S.T.D. et M.; and approved by His Excellency, John Gregory Murray, Archbishop of St. Paul. Copies of the standards may be obtained by sending a stamped envelope with your request to TOPIX.

ANDY PANDA
BABE RUTH SPORTS
BARNYARD
BASEBALL
BILLY WEST
BLACK DIAMOND
BLONDIE
BRER RABBIT
BUGS BUNNY
BUSTER BUNNY
CHARLIE McCARTHY
CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED
COMIC CAVALCADE
COO COO
CRACK WESTERN
DALE EVANS
DEAD-EYE
DICK COLE
DICK'S ADVENTURES
DONALD DUCK
EGBERT
ETTA KETT
FELIX THE CAT
FLASH GORDON
4 MOST BOYS
FRANKIE FUDDLE
FRECKLES & HIS FRIENDS
FUNNY ANIMALS
FUNNY FILMS
FUNNY FOLKS
FUNNY STUFF
GABBY HAYES
GENE AUTRY
GOOFY
GUNFIGHTER
HA HA
HAPPY
HENRY
HEROIC
HIT
HOPALONG CASSIDY
HUBERT
HUMPHREY
JIGGS & MAGGIE
JIMMY WAKELY
JINGLE JANGLE
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KATZENJAMMER KIDS
LASH LA RUE
LEADING
LITTLE ASPIRIN
LITTLE LENNY
LITTLE LULU
LITTLE MAX
LONE RANGER
LOONEY TUNES
MAGIC
MARMADUKE MOUSE
MERRIE MELODIES
MICKEY MOUSE
MIGHTY MOUSE
MUTT & JEFF
NEW FUNNIES
NYOKA
OSWALD
OZZIE & HARRIET
PETER RABBIT
POPEYE
PORKY PIG
RAGGEDY ANN & ANDY
REAL LIFE
REAL SCREEN
"RED" RABBIT
RED RYDER
ROCKY LANE
ROY ROGERS
SAD SACK
SEA HOUND
SHMOO
SMITTY
SNIFFY THE PUP
SPECIAL AGENT
SPUNKY
SUPER DUCK
SUPER MOUSE
SWEENEY
TARZAN
TERRY TOONS
TEX GRANGER
TEX MORGAN
THE MIGHTY
THUMPER
TILLIE THE TOILER
TIM HOLT
TIM McCOY
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COOKIE
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PENNY
SCRIBBLY
SUZIE
TEENA

BOOKS about the BLESSED VIRGIN

FOR *May* READING!

500—FOREVER VIRGIN
by Mary Alice McNarney
This authentic and instructive treatment of the life of Our Blessed Mother reads like a storybook. The many pictures are printed in two colors.
Cost—$1.00 each

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by R. Bastin, O.M.I.
This unusual book about the Blessed Virgin was written, illustrated and printed in Belgium. The twelve full-page illustrations in color and the many other black and white pictures make this the outstanding book of its kind on the market.
Price—$2.25

OUR LADY'S FEASTS
Written and illustrated by Sister Mary Jean, O.P. This collection of eleven prose stories about the Blessed Virgin belongs in every classroom and home library. Wonderful reading during May and every month of the year.
Price—$1.50

UP THE SHINING PATH
by Sister Margaret Patrice
Here are ten stories about women who modeled their lives after the Blessed Mother.
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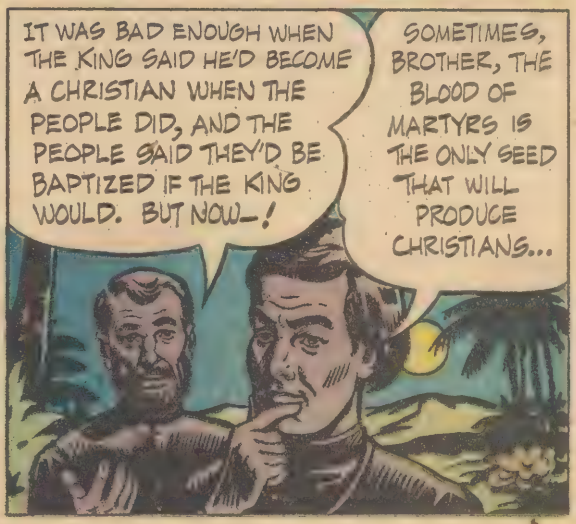
The BLOOD of MARTYRS
"THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS IS THE SEED OF CHRISTIANS"
IN 1837, FATHER PIERRE LOUIS MARIE CHANEL AND BROTHER MARIE NIZIER, BOTH OF THEM MARIST MISSIONARIES, LANDED ON THE FUTUNA ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO CONVERT THE NATIVES FROM DEVIL-WORSHIP AND CANNIBALISM. NEARLY TWO YEARS LATER—
THIS IS MARIA, BROTHER MARIE. I BAPTIZED HER YESTERDAY, BUT SHE'S VERY SICK.
THE NATIVES ARE GETTING READY FOR WAR!
LITTLE MARIA WILL NOT LIVE VERY LONG, FATHER.
THEY WILL ONLY LET ME BAPTIZE THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE.
MY FLOCK IN HEAVEN IS GROWING, BUT MY SHEEPFOLD ON EARTH IS STILL EMPTY. AND NOW LOOK AT THEM—!
KING NIULIKI SAYS HE WILL CRUSH THE MEN FROM SINGAVE IF THEY COME TO OUR ISLAND. HE SAYS THE GOD "FAKELIKELE" WILL WIN FOR HIM.

BUT THE MEN OF SINGAVE HAD ALSO INVOKED THE EVIL "FAKELIKELE." THEY HAD ALSO OBTAINED SOME GUNS. A FEW DAYS LATER, FULL OF CONFIDENCE, THEY ADVANCED...

BUT AS FATHER CHANEL PRAYED FOR PEACE—

BEATEN BACK TWICE BY ALOFI, THE MEN OF FUTUNA REFORMED THEIR LINES AND CHARGED FROM THREE SIDES AT ONCE.


IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN THE KING SAID HE'D BECOME A CHRISTIAN WHEN THE PEOPLE DID, AND THE PEOPLE SAID THEY'D BE BAPTIZED IF THE KING WOULD. BUT NOW—!
SOMETIMES, BROTHER, THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS IS THE ONLY SEED THAT WILL PRODUCE CHRISTIANS...

AS TIME WENT ON, BOTH KING AND NATIVES TURNED AGAINST THE MISSIONARIES. THEIR FOOD WAS STOLEN, AND THEY OFTEN WENT HUNGRY ALL DAY. THEY WERE INSULTED AND MOCKED. THE PEOPLE STILL LOVED "FATHER PIERRE" FOR HIS KINDNESS AND PATIENCE IN ADVERSITY, BUT FEW DARED TO TAKE HIS SIDE.

BUT THERE WERE A FEW CATECHUMENS—

OUR FOOD IS GONE AGAIN, FATHER - AND WE HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE YESTERDAY!

NEVER MIND, BROTHER - OUR GOOD BOYS HAVE BROUGHT US FOOD.

THE KING HAS FORBIDDEN US TO HELP YOU. AND HE THREATENS TO HAVE US BEATEN IF WE TAKE INSTRUCTIONS TO BECOME CHRISTIANS.

THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO COME AT NIGHT.

SOME OF THE CATECHUMENS WERE SCARED AWAY. BUT A FEW REMAINED FAITHFUL -

AND HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE, MEITALA?

THERE IS BUT ONE GOD IN THREE DIVINE PERSONS.

MEANWHILE, THE KING LISTENED TO EVIL COUNSELORS.

THE PEOPLE BELIEVE YOU ARE A GOD, YOUR MAJESTY. BUT IF THIS NEW RELIGION PREVAILS, YOU WILL HAVE TO TELL THEM YOU HAVE DECEIVED THEM.

THAT'S RIGHT, MUSUMUSU - I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT!

YOUR OWN SON, MEITALA, HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY! BEWARE, OR THE ENTIRE KINGDOM MAY FOLLOW HIM!

MEITALA TOLD ME NOTHING OF THIS! HE IS INSANE! HE IS NO LONGER MY SON - DO WITH HIM AS YOU WISH!

ARE THEY GOING TO SUCCEED, THESE WHITE MEN WHO HAVE COME TO ENSLAVE FUTUNA?
IF YOU DETEST THESE WHITES, I WILL GO AND KILL THEM!
FATHER! FATHER! I HAVE WARNED YOU MANY TIMES! THE KING AND HIS SON-IN-LAW ARE TALKING OF KILLING YOU!
IT IS ALL RIGHT, MY SON.
WHEN THE MISSIONARIES ARE DEAD, THEIR RELIGION WILL DIE WITH THEM, AND FUTUNA WILL BE FREE AGAIN.
WHY ARE YOU SO SLOW TO KILL THIS MAN?
IT IS WELL.

SOMEONE MUST KILL THE CHRISTIAN PRIEST! HE'S STILL ALIVE!
DID WE COME HERE TO ENRICH OURSELVES OR KILL THE PRIEST?
HERE COMES MUSUMUSU BACK AGAIN! HE'S GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DIE!
LEAVE ME. FOR ME, DEATH IS A GREAT GOOD.
AS FATHER CHANEL DIED, THE CLEAR SKY SUDDENLY DARKENED AND A VIOLENT THUNDER-CLAP WAS HEARD. AS SUDDENLY, THE SKY CLEARED AGAIN...

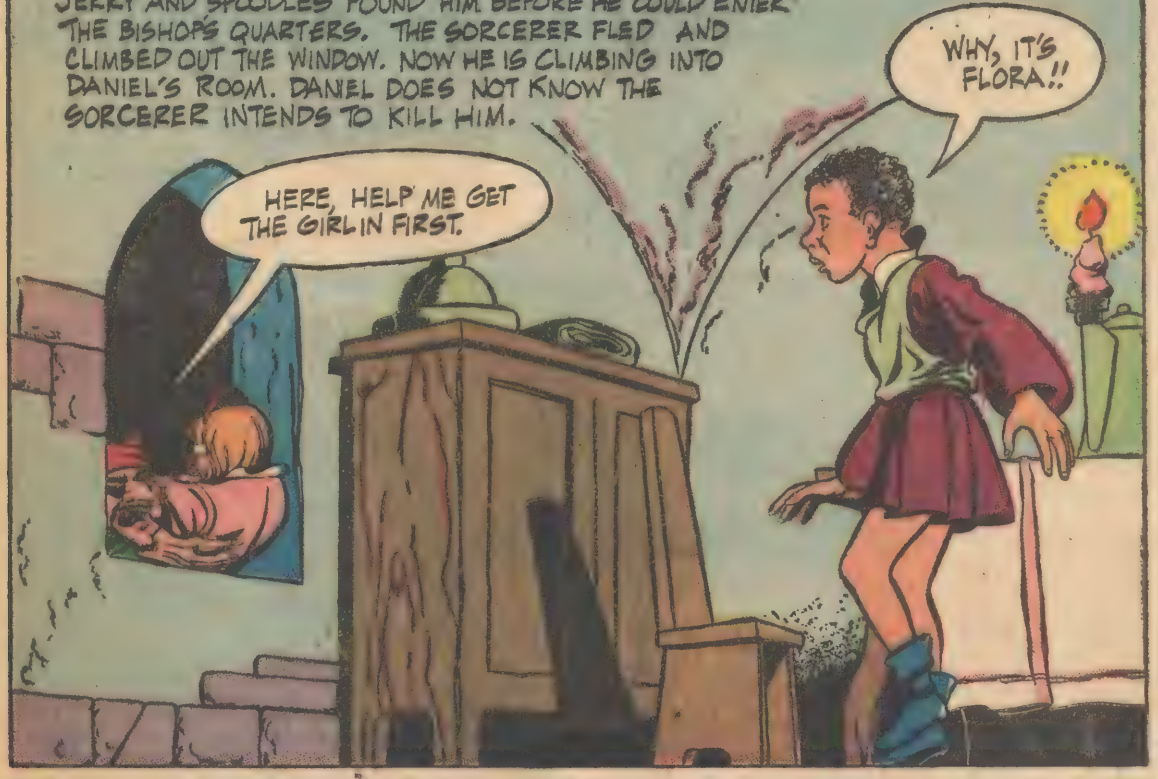
THE PRIEST IS DEAD, YOUR MAJESTY. BUT THE BROTHER WAS AWAY, AND HE ESCAPED.
GOOD! NOW THE PRIEST'S RELIGION WILL DIE WITH HIM. YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MUSUMUSU.
BUT THE MARTYR'S BLOOD BEGAN TO TAKE EFFECT. THE PEOPLE WERE SHOCKED BY THE MURDER OF THE BELOVED PRIEST. AND SOON —
THE KING'S BROTHER, FONOTI, WAS ONE OF THE WORST OF FATHER PIERRE'S PERSECUTORS. NOW HE IS SUDDENLY DEAD.
MAYBE THE HAND OF THE GOOD FATHER'S GOD STRUCK HIM.
AND LOOK AT THE KING - HE HAS BEEN STRICKEN WITH A TERRIBLE DISEASE! HE WILL NOT OUTLIVE HIS BROTHER VERY LONG.
KING NIULIKI DIED SOON, UNREPENTANT, OF A LOATHSOME DISEASE. WHEN OTHER MURDERERS OF FATHER CHANEL ALSO DIED SUDDENLY, THE PEOPLE BEGAN TO CHANGE.
THE GOD OF THE CHRISTIANS, WHO HAS PUNISHED THE UNREPENTANT MURDERERS, IS WILLING TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO REPENT. IS HE NOT A BETTER GOD THAN THE EVIL FAKELIKELE?
HE IS RIGHT!
IF HE WOULD FORGIVE ME, HE IS GOOD!
THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYR WAS INDEED THE SEEDS OF CHRISTIANS ON FUTUNA. EVEN MUSUMUSU WAS CONVERTED, AND ALTHOUGH HE DIED OF THE SAME HORRIBLE DISEASE AS KING NIULIKI, HE DIED A REPENTANT CHRISTIAN DEATH. TODAY, ALL FUTUNA IS CATHOLIC.

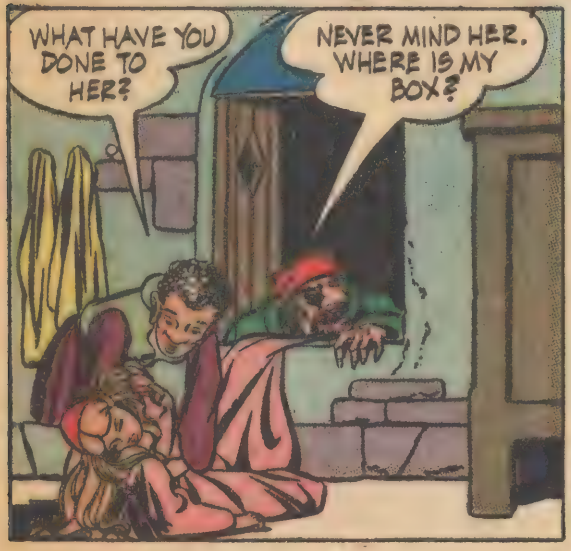
BEWARE OF A FELLOW NAMED KINER.
THE NATIONAL LEAGUE'S ATOM BOMB
Ralph KINER
STARTED HIS MAJOR-LEAGUE CAREER IN 1946. HE KEEPS BING CROSBY'S PITTSBURGH PIRATES PLAYING TO HUGE CROWDS IN SPITE OF THEIR SECOND DIVISION STANDING. KINER BAT'S RIGHT-HANDED, AND KNOCKED IN 104 RUNS DURING THE 1948 SEASON. IN 1949, HE ALMOST SET A NEW NATIONAL LEAGUE RECORD WITH 54 HOME RUNS.
PAY WINDOW
ONLY 26 YEARS OLD AND MAKING OVER $40,000 A SEASON.
HIS FIRST "BASEBALL" WAS A GOLF BALL.
WISH I COULD GET UP IN THE STANDS—IT'D BE A LOT SAFER.
EARLY IN HIS CAREER HE HAD TROUBLE WITH CONTROL, BUT HE SET AN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION RECORD OF 20 STRIKEOUTS AGAINST ST. PAUL, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION LEAGUE LEADERS.
Maury McDERMOTT
—TWENTY-ONE YEAR OLD MAURY CAME TO BOSTON FROM LOUISVILLE IN MIDDLE 1949. HE IS EXPECTED TO CARRY THE BRUNT OF THE RED SOX PITCHING THIS YEAR. WITH BOSTON IN 1949, HE WON 5 GAMES AND LOST 4.

DANIEL AND THE DEVIL

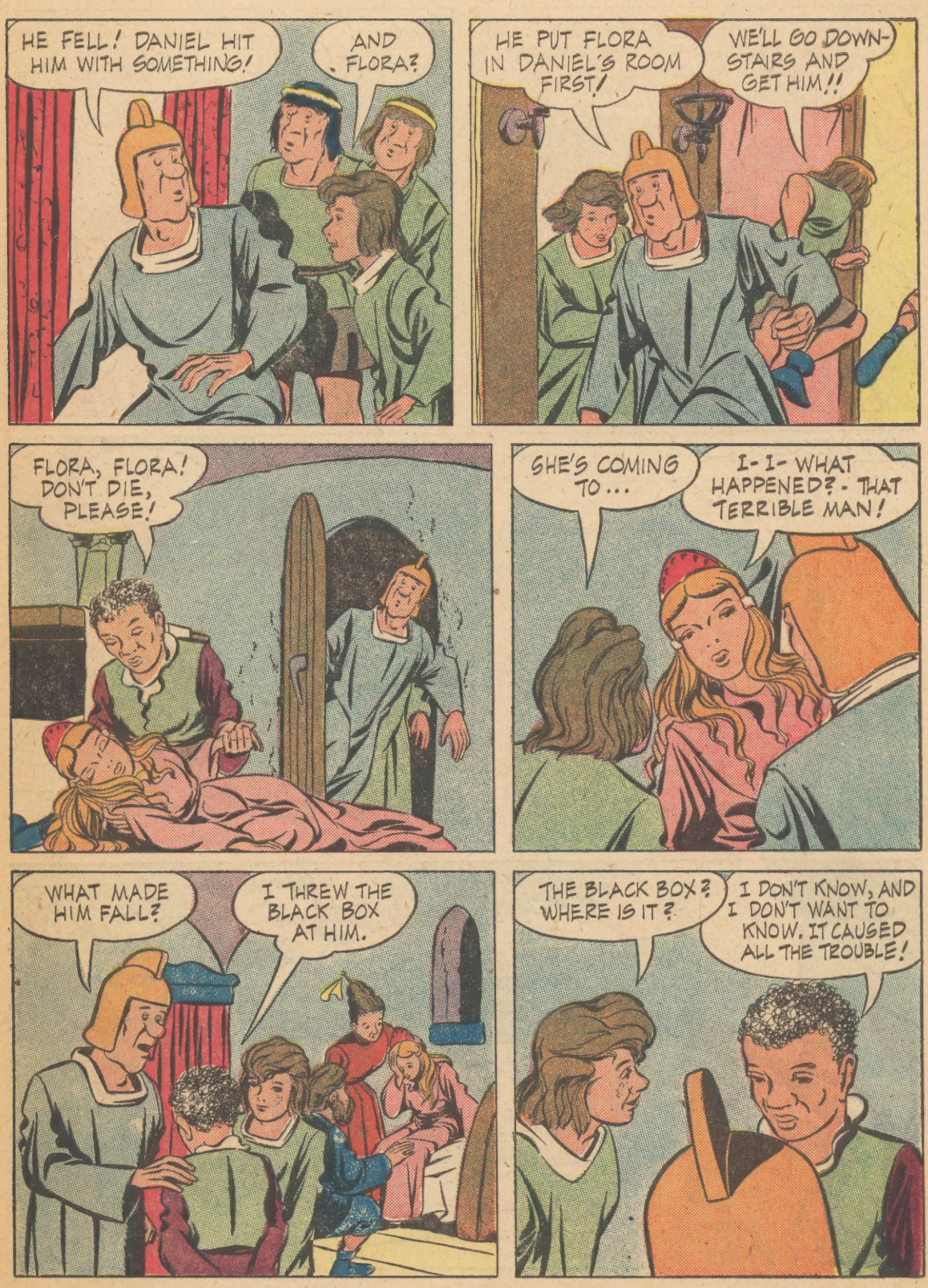
CHAPTER VII

BLACK ISHLA STOLE INTO THE CASTLE TO KILL THE BISHOP AND DANIEL AND TO GET THE EBONY BOX. BUT JERRY AND SPOODLES FOUND HIM BEFORE HE COULD ENTER THE BISHOP'S QUARTERS. THE SORCERER FLED AND CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW. NOW HE IS CLIMBING INTO DANIEL'S ROOM. DANIEL DOES NOT KNOW THE SORCERER INTENDS TO KILL HIM.



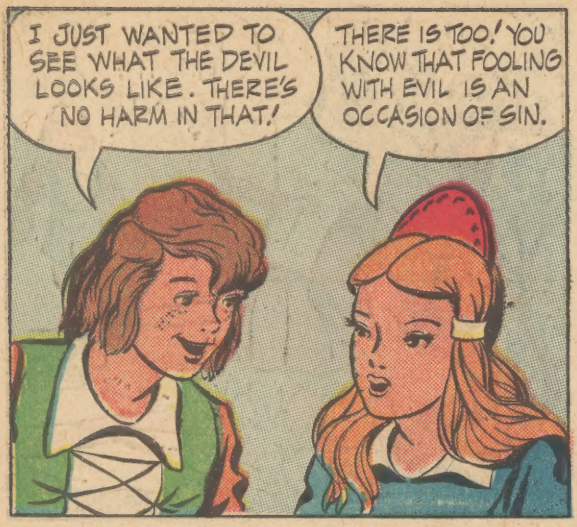


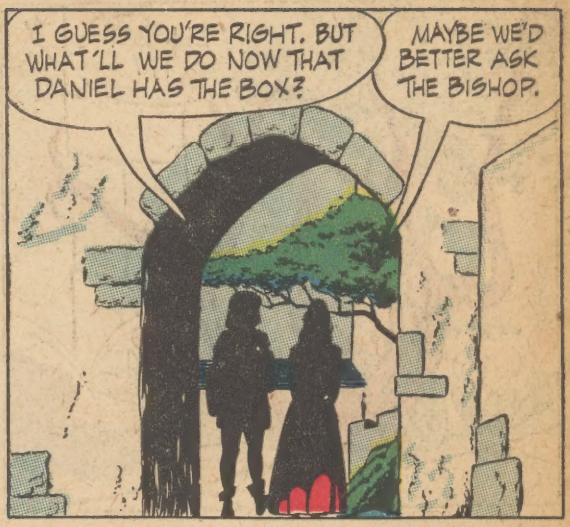
FIRST, I'LL KILL HIM. THEN, WHILE THE OTHERS ARE LOOKING FOR THE GIRL, I'LL ESCAPE WITH THE BOX.
YOU- YOU- YOU!
HURRY!!
HERE'S YOUR OLD BOX!
HEY!


HE FELL! DANIEL HIT HIM WITH SOMETHING!
AND FLORA?
HE PUT FLORA IN DANIEL'S ROOM FIRST!
WE'LL GO DOWN-STAIRS AND GET HIM!!
FLORA, FLORA! DON'T DIE, PLEASE!
SHE'S COMING TO...
I-I-WHAT HAPPENED? - THAT TERRIBLE MAN!
WHAT MADE HIM FALL?
I THREW THE BLACK BOX AT HIM.
THE BLACK BOX? WHERE IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW, AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW. IT CAUSED ALL THE TROUBLE!

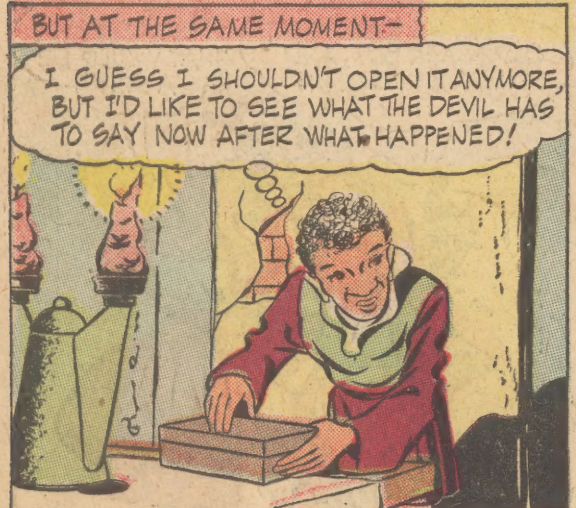
BUT HOW? WHAT WAS IT?
THE DEVIL! WHEN I OPENED IT, THE DEVIL WOULD COME OUT AND TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
GOSH!
COULD - COULD I BE BAPTIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE? I DON'T WANT TO BE A PAGAN LIKE - LIKE BLACK ISHLA!
AND OUTSIDE —
WELL, HE'S DEAD. HE MUST HAVE BROKEN HIS NECK.
WE'LL BURY HIM IN THE CEMETERY FOR STRANGERS.
TWO DAYS LATER —
THE BISHOP SAID I COULD BE BAPTIZED NEXT WEEK, IF I STUDIED VERY HARD.
THAT'S SWELL!

I'LL GET IT!
OH!!
DID YOU FIND IT?
IT'S THE BLACK BOX!
OH, GOOD! LET'S OPEN IT!
NO!- NO!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AW, HE FOUND THAT OLD BLACK BOX, AND I WANTED TO OPEN IT.
BUT, JERRY, THAT WOULD BE A SIN!


I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT THE DEVIL LOOKS LIKE. THERE'S NO HARM IN THAT!
THERE IS TOO! YOU KNOW THAT FOOLING WITH EVIL IS AN OCCASION OF SIN.


I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT WHAT'LL WE DO NOW THAT DANIEL HAS THE BOX?
MAYBE WE'D BETTER ASK THE BISHOP.

THIS IS VERY SERIOUS. I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME ABOUT IT. DANIEL POSITIVELY CANNOT BE BAPTIZED UNTIL HE DESTROYS THAT BOX.


BUT AT THE SAME MOMENT—
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T OPEN IT ANYMORE, BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT THE DEVIL HAS TO SAY NOW AFTER WHAT HAPPENED!

I'LL OPEN IT JUST THIS ONCE!
PLAY WITH FIRE AND YOU'LL BURN YOUR FINGERS. WILL DANIEL EVER BE BAPTIZED?
TO BE CONTINUED.